

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claims 27-36 are cancelled pursuant to their withdrawal from consideration and without disclaimer. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the rejection contends that the recitation in claim 1 that a local resource is released to the remote processor if "an amount of resources consumed by the remote processor is below the determined limit" is unclear. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As amended, claim 1 recites receiving an upper limit of resources that may be consumed by the remote processor, releasing a local resource if an amount of resources consumed by the remote processor is below the upper limit.

Paragraph 15 in the specification states that the system administrators can also adopt a sharing policy that collects the resources of all the processors in a resource pool. The sharing policy specifies an upper limit, based on the age of the processor, for the amount of resources that a processor can consume from the resource pool.

The amount of resources consumed by such a processor must be below the upper limit, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejections of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Blumenau and Raz (US Patent No. 6,195,703 B1), hereinafter "Blumenau" in view of Pian et al. (US Patent No. 5,357,632), hereinafter "Pian". The rejection contends that it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify Blumenau to include Pian's supervisory control processor 122 and to determine an upper limit as a function of sending additional ready task entries to the supervisory control processor. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As amended, the method of claim 1 recites releasing a local resource controlled by the host processor to the remote processor. If an amount of resources consumed by the remote processor is below the upper limit of resources that may be consumed by the remote processor, then the utilization of the local resource is maintained within a pre-determined upper threshold. Claim 1 also recites that if at least one of the upper threshold and the upper limit is exceeded, the availability of the local resource to the remote processor by

the host processor is reduced. The suggested modification of Blumenau to include Pian's supervisory control processor does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1.

In this regard, Blumenau describes a digital computer programmed with a host activity monitoring facility that measures the frequency of data packets to or from each host from or to a storage subsystem port. The digital computer is also programmed with a dynamic balancing facility that periodically computes a new list of storage subsystem ports for each of the hosts to access based on the frequencies monitored by the host activity monitoring facility and a specified priority level assigned to each of the hosts (col. 7, lines 53-62).

Pian describes queueing ready task entries in a distributed control processor, placing an upper limit on the local ready task entries that can be queued in the distributed processor, and when a distributed control processor schedules more ready task entries than the size of its local ready task entry queue, sending the additional ready task entries to the supervisory control processor for re-assignment to a second distributed control processor (col. 8, lines 52-64).

In the suggested modification of Blumenau with Pian's supervisory control processor, excess ready task entries would be re-routed from hosts to storage subsystem ports by the

supervisory control processor based on the upper limit imposed. The suggested modification of Blumenau with Pian's supervisory control processor is not understood to disclose or suggest using the upper limit of resources that may be consumed by the remote processor to release an amount of local resources controlled by the host processor to the remote processor, as claimed.

As another example, claim 1 recites a method for collecting accounting information from an accounting manager at each of the networked processors to release a local resource controlled by a host processor to a remote processor based on an upper limit received. In the suggested combination of Blumenau with Pian's supervisory control processor, the hosts would share resources with a single storage volume through a single supervisory control processor. Thus, the suggested combination is not understood to disclose or suggest monitoring utilization of resources at each networked processor. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Each of the dependent claims is also believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim, and, as such, the dependent claims have not been discussed specifically herein.

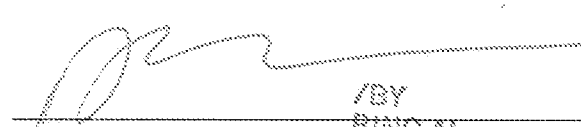
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Claims 1-9 should be in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The foregoing comments made with respect to the positions taken by the Examiner are not to be construed as acquiescence with other positions of the Examiner that have not been explicitly contested. Accordingly, the arguments for patentability of a claim should not be construed as implying that there are not other valid reasons for patentability of that claim or other claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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